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RUSSWARD
Saintpaulia Growers

JONESBORO, ARK.

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Jonesboro, Ark.
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PRICE LIST

Shipping Information—Plants shipped in 2-inch pots in which they are grown. List price includes packing and mailing cost. All plant orders sent Special Handling. We guarantee safe arrival of plants. To avoid disappointment, and to take advantage of frequent price cuts, order from the most recent Price List.

Amethyst — Excellent bloomer. Pale lavender blooms in profusion, dark green tapered foliage
----- \$1.25

Bi-Color—Upper petals deep red violet, lower lavender. Slick foliage ----- \$1.25

Blue Eyed Beauty—Large white blossom with blue marking at center of the blossom. Husky, medium-green foliage. Is remarkable for its vitality and profuse bloom. Three-inch plants ----- \$3.00

Blue Girl—Scalloped, medium green foliage with white marking at the base of the leaf. Rich blue flower ----- \$1.25

Blue Knight—Medium blue flowers of quite large size, big foliage. A fine, showy plant to grow \$1.25

Blue Pet—An awfully sweet little minature. Girl foliage, round, flat leaves with white spot at base. Dark blue flower ----- \$1.25

Blue Ripple—Large roundish leaves which ripple slightly. Medium pale blue flower ----- \$1.50

Blue Velvet—Round, rather deeply quilted foliage. Dark blue flower ----- \$1.25

Blush Maid—Exquisite shell pink. Foliage like Pink Beauty, bloom much paler ----- \$1.25

Diplotricha—Species. Commonly called Kewensis. Pale green delicate foliage, very small dainty blue flowers ----- \$1.25

Double Duchess—Double Blue Boy ----- \$1.25

Double Margaret—Double blue blossom also, but wavy rather dentate leaves \$1.50

Double Neptune—This double has opened fully and performed magnificently all through our hot summer. Neptune foliage with red reverse. Large double blue flowers \$2.00

Double Orchid—Lavender flowers, double, with Blue Boy foliage \$1.25

Gorgeous—Most noted for its tendency to spoon. Maroon to red-lavender blooms \$2.00

Gypsy Jane—Pale lavender, darker shading, large flower \$1.50

Hardee Blue—This is an "old" variety which is enjoying a second look by violet fanciers. Extremely large foliage and flowers. Medium blue \$1.75

Ison—Same applies to this plant as to Hardee Blue. This variety has been around quite awhile. Remarkable for the intense flower color—bright blue. Deep green foliage tends to cup upward \$1.75

Lavender Lady—A darker version of West Coast Amethyst. Unusually profuse \$1.25

Lilac Princess—One of the nicest of the pale-lavender color group. Round, medium-green foliage. Good bloomer \$1.25

Moire—Variegation of rich purple blossom resembles moire taffeta. Medium green foliage....\$1.75

Old Lace—Deeply scalloped leaves. Definitely a miniature. Doesn't grow much over six inches in diameter. Dark blue flowers carried high and profusely. Takes a mild soil \$1.75

Orchid Beauty—Red-lavender Blue Boy sport \$1.25

Pink Girl—Scalloped, medium green foliage with the white marking at the base of the leaf. Pink flower \$1.50

Polka Dot—An improved Orchid Beauty with the added attraction of a tiny white dot at the tip of each flower petal. Amazingly profuse \$1.75

Purple Beauty—Fine, slick foliage, medium dark blue flower. Nice little multipile-crown plants of this \$1.25

Red Girl—Rich red blossom with the traditional girl foliage \$1.25

Red King—Finest red to date. Heavy dark green foliage, intense burgundy flowers, unusually large \$1.75

Redland Ruffles—A Redland sport with the exquisite Ruffles foliage, intense red reverse, sharply pointed. The blooms have the longer bottom petal of blue Ruffles. Rich burgundy red blossom. Really a beaut \$2.50

Rosalie—Another lovely red best for foliage. Graceful large tapered leaves have tendency to ripple slightly with maturity \$1.50

Rosie O'Grady—Finest and loveliest of the pinks to date. Large pointed leaves, excellent habit. Large pink flower with overlaid rose star.....\$2.00

Ruffles—Very unusual. Dark green bronzy-looking leaves. Tapered, dog-tooth foliage with red reverse show some ruffling with age of plant. Bloom pale blue with elongated lower petal. This variety has the charming tendency to produce little plantlets on the bloom stalks occasionally.....\$1.50

Tinted Lady—Palest of the blues. Ionantha-type foliage, pink reverse. A lovely variety \$1.25

Thirty-Two—An outstanding plant. Fine slick shiny foliage has tendency to spoon. Large blue-lavender flower \$1.25

White Girl Hybrid—The result of crosses of White Lady on various Girl foliages. All are guaranteed predominantly white, though many will have blue, lavender, and pink markings overlaid on the flower \$2.25

White Lady—Pure white flowers against medium green foliage \$1.25

R U S S W A R D
Jonesboro, Arkansas

News Letter

November, 1950

Dear Friends:

The Q. and A. arrangement last month seemed to make everybody happy, so we'll try it again.

- Q. What do you call a mild soil? B. H., Ottumwa, Iowa.
- A. One with very little nutritive value in it. Long on sand or vermiculite, short on fertilizer.
- Q. Where do you get the Violet Magazine, Alma Wright, editor? M.M.W., York, Nebraska.
- A. This magazine is sent automatically to all members of the National Society. The subscription price is included in your annual dues of \$3.00, which should be sent to Mr. Boyce M. Edens, 2694 Lenox Road, N.E., Atlanta, Georgia, instead of Mr. Gottshall whose name I mistakenly quoted last month.
- Q. I would like to receive the Round Robin letter on A.V. How do I go about joining? Mrs. G.L.C., Pueblo, Colorado.
- A. The letters are sponsored by the Flower Grower Magazine and are under the general direction of Mrs. Mabel E. Wickman, 1014 Churchill Ave., Utica 4, N. Y. Send her a buck and tell her you wish to join the African Violet Robin.
- Q. I have an Orchid Beauty with half of some of the leaves white and the other half green. What could caused this? Mrs. G.L.C., Colorado.
- A. You have a varietgated foliage plant. It's a freak, but every now and then there are some very handsome ones. Good specimens are rare, so treat yours lovingly.
- Q. Is rotten oak leaf dirt better than old rotted oak stump dirt? Should I mix this with sand or rotted cow manure? Mrs. E.C.M., Hayesville, N. C.
- A. As far as nutritional content is concerned, I doubt if there would be much difference between the leaf and stump of the same tree. Would suggest the addition of 1 part sand to 4 parts dirt, however.
- Q. All my white and pink violets have died. Why? Mrs. M. K., Bessemer, Alabama.
- A. Most whites and pinks are just naturally not as vigorous as the blues. In case of some mishap such as exposure of a whole collection to intense heat or cold, the blues would be the first to get over the damage. If any of the

plants expired, it would more than likely be the whites and the pinks.

Q. Can plants be watered with sodium selenate that are over a year old without harm? Mrs. I.M., Drexel, Mo.

A. Yes, if one is painstakingly careful not to give an overdose. Plants over a year old should only be treated once a year.

Q. What causes African Violets to turn hard in the center and stop growth. Is it a disease of deficiency in the soil? Mrs. C.H.R., Oak Hill, W. Va.

A. Lady, I dunno. Could be cyclamen mite, could be the water, could be the temperature. A couple of correspondents have claimed success with NNOR dip (mix a bucket full of mild spray solution and dip the entire plant in it until the bubbles stop coming to the top.

Q. The few buds my plants have put on get about as big as the head of a pin, then blast. Why? Mrs. H.S.M., Oklahoma City.

A. Again I must admit ignorance. Sometimes this is caused by running the plants too dry, or by insufficient humidity. You might try setting the plant in a tray of damp sand.

Q. Will violets grow as well if small plants are put in 4-inch pots to start with? Would save repotting for awhile. E.O., Rome, Georgia.

A. Yes, it would save some repotting, but it will seem like ten years before that plant gets around to blooming in that big pot. Now there's them that is fer and them that is agin ample potting. Our personal experience has been that a plant rarely blooms until the roots form a loose mat around the inner surface of the pot. Lots of folks maintain that this is the very time to shift it on to a larger pot. We use a ration to determine potting requirements of a plant: when the diameter of the violet measures three times the diameter of the pot, it's time to shift on to a larger container.

Q. I have my blooming plants sitting in beds of damp sand. Is there anything I could get to sprinkle around to keep away insects? Mrs. L.H., Henderson, Ky.

A. Why not water the sand once a month with a nicotine sulphate solution (Black Leaf 40)? By all means don't sprinkle moth crystals on that damp sand. Something about the combination of naphtha and the moisture creates a gas which is very toxic to the plants.

Q. Do you sell small plants at a lower price?

A. No, ma'am.

Q. What is meant by the non-suckering habit? Mrs. F.B., Colorado Springs.

A. The ideal of all true violet-fanciers is to train violets into single-crown plants. That is, one "head" from the center of which the leaves and bloom petioles grow. Some varieties, the worst being White Lady and Pink Beauty,

have a tendency to put out new crowns from the side of the parent crown. This gives the plant a whopperjawed appearance which is definitely frowned upon by the faithful. To maintain the chaste single-crown perfection of a White Lady, therefore, one is forced to be continually gouging away at these "suckers." Non-suckering habit, then, simply means that the variety in question does not have this unfortunate characteristic.

Q. How do you cross violet?

A. Look at your violet. See those two little yellow gimmicks right in the middle of the flower? Well, those are anthers. Now, see that little straight stick going out at the side? That's the style. Let's say you want to cross a pink on a blue. Remove a flower from the pink. Pull back the petals and gently pull the anthers apart—sometimes they seem to grow together. Using the pulled-back petals for a handle (yes, indeedy, it's close work), take the pink in your left hand, grasp the blue flower (leave it on the plant) firmly in your right, and thrust the style of the blue flower into the parted anther of the pink. With small scissors, snip off the anthers of the blue, and cross your fingers. It will take about a week for the seed pod on the blue to begin to swell—you might go ahead and cross several to make up for the one or two which won't "take."

Q. I have been told that I should never turn my violet around, to always keep the same side facing the light. Is this true? Mrs. C.B.G., Kansas City, Mo.

A. ".....because they shift their strength from side to side and this weakens them"? Phooie. Sunflowers seem to sustain the shock pretty well.

Q. When is your greenhouse open? We would like to drive down to see your plants?

A. Open any time—frequently out of town over weekends. But I should warn you before you drive any distance that there isn't much to see. We do mail-order stuff exclusively—no big specimen plants. Trays of sprouting leaves and baby plants may be slightly interesting, but are certainly nothing to come 500 miles out of your way to view. If your itinerary is to bring you to Arkansas, may I suggest that you go by Springdale (above Fort Smith) and visit the Treasure House. Mrs. Hartenbower is the lady in charge of violets there, and she has something for you to see! It's right on the highway. Can't miss it. And for GOODNESS sake, ask about highways before you start zooming around Arkansas. We have a highway program under way at present. When the roads are good, they are very, very good, but when they are bad, oh my.

Affectionately,

"Russ"

JONESBORO, ARKANSAS



Sustaining Member African Violet Society of America, Inc.

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